

## **Space Life Sciences Directorate Space Life Sciences Academy Charter**

### **1.0 PURPOSE**

This charter documents the purpose, goals, scope, and authority of the Space Life Sciences Academy (SLS Academy) at NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC) and the responsibilities of the membership and advisory council. The purpose of the SLS Academy is to develop and implement curricula and coursework in the space life sciences disciplines to meet the goals specified below.

### **2.0 GOALS**

The goals of the SLS Academy are:

- A. To achieve the strategic education goals of the Space Life Sciences Directorate
- B. To foster and develop the technical and leadership skills of Space Life Sciences personnel at all NASA centers
- C. To educate NASA personnel in space life sciences and human health and performance disciplines in order to support NASA's human space flight programs
- D. To educate non-NASA individuals in space life sciences disciplines and human health and performance disciplines in support of NASA's human space flight programs

### **3.0 SCOPE AND AUTHORITY**

The SLS Academy is established by the Space Life Sciences Directorate and is managed by the SLS Academy Advisory Council. The Academy Dean provides oversight in the implementation of the Academy and serves as the Chair to the Academy Advisory Council. The Academy Advisory Council is a working level group which makes recommendations on training and development courses needed for career development, course curricula for degree programs with partnered universities, and education and outreach initiatives. The Council also reviews and plans Academy initiatives. The SLS Academy Chair has the responsibility for approval or disapproval of recommendations discussed by the Council.

The SLS Academy offers curricula for all disciplines within the Space Life Sciences Directorate to personnel, students, teachers, and academic institutions. This effort contributes to the development of technical expertise and core competencies critical to human space exploration. Additional details of the Space Life Sciences Academy and its traceability to Directorate and Agency Goals are detailed in JSC-64763 SLSD Education Implementation Plan.

### **4.0 MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The membership of the SLS Academy Advisory Council includes from the Space Life Sciences Directorate:

Academy Dean: Provides oversight in the implementation of the Academy and serves as the Chair to the Academy Advisory Council. To ensure effective and efficient

implementation of Academy initiatives, the Academy Dean will coordinate with JSC Human Resources and JSC Office of Education.

**Advisory Council Chair:** Responsible for approval or disapproval of recommendations discussed by the Council.

**Representatives (2 – primary and alternate) from each SLSD Division:** Responsible for identifying division-wide and branch-specific training needs; coordinating with Divisions and stakeholders they represent to bring forward consolidated decisions or information regarding actions or discussion topics during meetings. Representatives serve as the Division Training Lead (and Alternate) for each Division.

**Ad Hoc Members:** Ad Hoc members may be called upon as topics in their area of expertise are discussed.

SLSA Advisory Council members provide the leadership and coordination to meet the goals of the Academy. Members are required to understand their roles, responsibilities, and authority within the Academy, the processes that guide their interactions with organizations within and outside of NASA, and the products for which the Academy, as a whole, is responsible. Additionally, members evaluate and support the timely development of decisions regarding proposed content changes to any course curriculum.

## **5.0 MEETINGS**

The Academy Advisory Council shall meet on a regular basis as determined by the Advisory Council Chair.

## **6.0 PRODUCTS**

The primary products of the SLS Academy are the curriculum and coursework required to fulfill the purpose of the Academy. Curriculum shall meet the needs of SLSD personnel, SLS personnel at other NASA centers, other NASA personnel, and non-NASA individuals. The development and execution of these products will be detailed in the SLS Academy Implementation Plan. A general description of curriculum and coursework is described below.

- A. **NASA Audience:** The NASA audience includes personnel from all disciplines in the JSC Space Life Sciences Directorate, the National Space Biomedical Research Institute (NSBRI), and personnel from related disciplines at all NASA centers.
  - i. **Core competencies and skills:** In order to develop a training curriculum, core competencies and skills needed by the SLS Directorate for its personnel in the execution of their jobs will be identified. There may be some competencies and skills that all SLS personnel must have, but each Division Lead will identify Division-specific and Branch-specific training needs that will be a part of the larger curricula.
  - ii. **Training resources:** Much of the training required to meet the core competencies and skills may exist already within NASA in the form of

- courses, presentations, documents and other formats. These training resources will be identified and mapped to the required core competencies and skills.
- iii. Training gaps: Should NASA lack the training required to meet its core competencies and skills objectives, external resources will be identified to fill these gaps. The external resources may be in the form of courses, degree programs, professional development programs, presentations, sabbaticals, documents and other formats.
  - iv. Training curriculum: Once the core competencies and skills have been mapped to the training resources, a training curriculum will be developed that addresses the needs of the various types of personnel (e.g. management, technical experts, support staff). A process will be defined for SLS personnel to use these resources.
- B. Non-NASA Audience: The Non-NASA audience may span from K-12, undergraduate to graduate, post-graduate studies and medical schools.
- i. Desired outcomes: The desired outcomes include training students and teachers to become SLS subject matter experts within their own organizations and specialty fields. Also desired is fostering education and career development of students and experts who can join NASA, either directly or through collaborative partnerships, to continue a legacy of succession in space life sciences for human space flight.
  - ii. Organization relationship identification and formation: NASA already has many partnerships with universities and medical schools, with some of these universities offering degree programs in space life sciences or space life science related fields of study. Additional partnership opportunities will be identified, to ensure a broad reach of SLS disciplines, including management and engineering, across the country.
  - iii. Curriculum: Once a partnership with a university for a degree program has been established, course curriculum will be developed.
- C. Academy Faculty: SLS personnel needed to provide training will be identified, according to the audience, curriculum content, and desired outcomes.

## **7.0 REPORTING**

The SLS Academy Dean shall provide a status of accomplishments, recommendations, and plans to the Director, Space Life Sciences Directorate at JSC on an annual basis.

## **8.0 RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS**

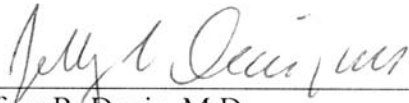
Staffing for launch and initial development efforts of the SLS Academy, including development of the SLS Academy Implementation Plan, will be provided by existing SLSD personnel. Additional resources requirements will be defined during this phase and identified in the Implementation Plan.

## 9.0 SIGNATURES



\_\_\_\_\_  
Neal R. Pellis, Ph.D.  
Chief Scientist, Space Life Sciences Directorate  
Education Lead, Strategy Execution & Implementation Office

January 25, 2010  
Date



\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey R. Davis, M.D.  
Director, Space Life Sciences Directorate

1/29/2010  
Date